



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Joseph P. Mettner, Commissioner
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Ms. Carol Hanlon, S & ER Products Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307 M/S 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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SEP 19 2001

RE: Dear Ms. Hanlon:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this issue of such critical nationwide importance. The interests of the citizens of Wisconsin will be best served by the ultimate disposal of spent nuclear fuel in a geologic repository such as is being evaluated at Yucca Mountain.

If the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) determines that the scientific analysis indicates the Yucca Mountain site is likely to meet the applicable radiation standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, this Commission would encourage the Secretary to proceed to recommend the Yucca Mountain site to the President. Such action would constitute a significant step forward to fulfill the Federal responsibility, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended, for the final disposition of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the United States.

Wisconsin ratepayers to date, through rates for electric service, have contributed more than \$440 million to the federal government for the characterization of a single, long-term high-level radioactive waste repository. In addition, they are currently funding dry cask storage at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant and, within a few years, may be faced with the need to fund similar facilities at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. If DOE does not proceed with development at Yucca Mountain, Wisconsin ratepayers will face these continuing duplicative costs.

Dry cask storage of nuclear power plant spent fuel is a short-term solution. A long-term solution is imperative. The continued characterization of the Yucca Mountain site for this purpose, if found scientifically sound and technically feasible, is the best use of funds already committed.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, September 14, 2001

By the Commission:


Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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cc: Records Management, PSCW